

Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28) voted to extend unemployment insurance benefits to millions of out of work Americans and the families they support.

The Unemployment Compensation Extension Act passed the House by vote of 272-152 after being ushered to the floor through Slaughter's Rules Committee.

"At a time when millions of families across the country are struggling to make ends meet, we must lend a hand," said Slaughter. "Many hard-working Western New Yorkers, who through no fault of their own are out of a job, need this assistance to help pay bills, put food on the table and provide for their families. I refuse to tell my constituents who are struggling that we don't care what happens to them."

The bill follows weeks of obstruction of important measures that would have promoted job creation here in the U.S. but extended critical unemployment insurance benefits to help Americans support their families as they look for their next job opportunity.

Approximately 2.5 million unemployed workers nationwide have lost their unemployment insurance benefits. H.R. 4213 would extend the Emergency Unemployment Compensation and Extended Benefits programs through November 30, 2010. The legislation will retroactively restore benefits to recipients who may have started losing their benefits as early as the end of May.

In June, [the Department of Labor](#) reported that the unemployment rate for May in Rochester was 7.3% and 7.6% in Buffalo and Niagara Falls.

Passage of today's bill will give much needed benefits to 190,000 New Yorkers, more than 12,000 of which are in Western New York.